

Serial No. 10/786,156

Attorney Docket No. 11-229

REMARKS

In part 12 of the Office Action Summary, none of the boxes are checked. However, the applicants filed a certified copy of the priority document on 26 February 2004, as indicated on the filing transmittal for this application. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and notice that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Claims 2-4, 9-12, 14-23, and 31-46 are pending. Claims 1, 5-8, 13, and 24-30 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In paragraph 7 of the office action, claims 2-4, 15, 16, 31, 33, and 34 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were said to be allowable if written in independent form. Note that claim 34 was originally in independent form. The applicants believe that the examiner intended to allow claim 34. Claims 2, 15 and 31 have been written in independent form. Therefore, claims 2, 15 and 31 and their dependents are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Minor grammatical amendments have been made to claim 34. However, no substantive changes were made to claim 34.

Claims 1, 9-14, 19-21, 23 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Tercott (US 6997879). Claims 1, 13 and 30 have been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claims 9-12, 14, 19-21 and 23, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

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Claims 9-12 and 23 depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 2, which was said to contain allowable subject matter and has been written in independent form. Therefore, claims 9-12 and 23 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 14 and 19-21 depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 15, which was said to contain allowable subject matter and has been written in independent form. Therefore, claims 14 and 19-21 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarussi in view of Turcott. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn because claim 17 depends on claim 15, which was said to contain allowable subject matter and has been written in independent form. Therefore, claim 17 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarussi in view of Turcott and Suzuki. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn because claim 18 depends indirectly on claim 15, which was said to contain allowable subject matter and has been written in independent form. Therefore, claim 18 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 35-46 are new. Claims 35-38 are considered to be in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

Claims 35-38 and 40-42 depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 2, which was said to contain allowable subject matter and has been written in independent form. Therefore, claims 35-38 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 39 depends on claim 15, which was said to contain allowable subject matter and has been written in independent form. Therefore, claim 17 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

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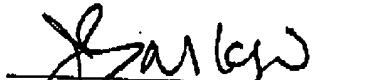
Claim 46 depends on claim 31, which was said to contain allowable subject matter and has been written in independent form. Therefore, claim 46 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

New independent claims 43 and 45 include the subject matter of claim 2, which was said to contain allowable subject matter. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 43-45 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Barlow
Reg. No. 32,377

Posz Law Group, PLC
12040 South Lakes Drive, Suite 101
Reston, VA 20191
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400